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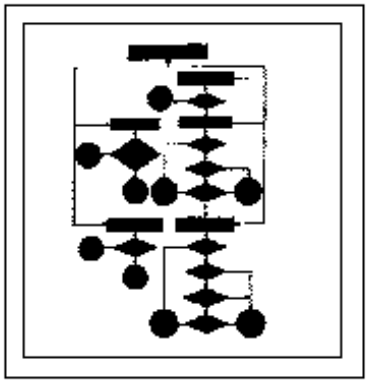
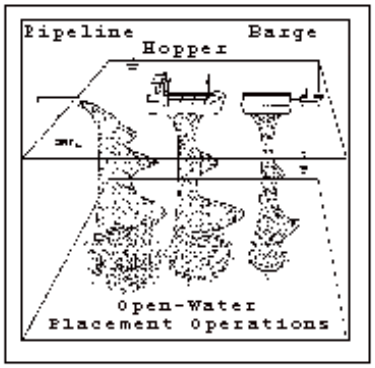
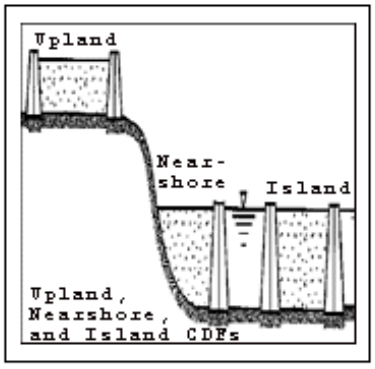
Evaluating Environmental Effects of Dredged Material Management Alternatives

--A Technical Framework







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PREFACE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) share the responsibility of regulating dredged material management activities under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA), and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, also called the Clean Water Act (CWA). Such management activities must also comply with the applicable requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

This document provides a consistent technical framework for USACE and EPA personnel to follow in identifying environmentally acceptable alternatives for the management of dredged material. The framework presented herein is consistent with and meets the substantive and procedural requirements of NEPA, CWA, and MPRSA and is applicable to dredged material management alternatives. The technical guidance provided by other documents such as the MPRSA and CWA testing manuals should be applied within this framework. Application of this framework will enhance consistency and coordination in USACE/EPA decision making in accordance with Federal environmental statutes regulating dredged material management.

This manual was prepared by a joint USACE/EPA work group consisting of the following members: Dr. Michael R. Palermo, Mr. Norman R. Francingues, and Dr. Thomas Wright, Environmental Laboratory, U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MS; Mr. Jim Reese, U.S. Army Engineer Division, North Pacific, Portland, OR; Dr. Susan Ivester Rees, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, Mobile, AL; Mr. David Mathis, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, DC; Ms. Shannon Cunniff, Mr. John Goodin, Mr. Tom Chase, Mr. Mike Kravitz, Mr. Barry Burgan, and Mr. John Lishman, Headquarters, EPA, Washington, DC; Dr. Bill Muir, EPA, Region III, Philadelphia, PA; Mr. Bob Howard, EPA, Region IV, Atlanta, GA; and Mr. John Malek, EPA, Region X, Seattle, WA. Much of the information in this manual was taken from various USACE and EPA publications, and the contributions of the original authors are gratefully acknowledged.